

### Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 24, 2004, as well as the Examiner Interview of March 20, 2003.

Claims 18, 20-24 and 26-32 are pending in this application. Claims 18, 20-24 and 26-32 have been subjected to an election requirement. Claims 20, 23, 24, 27 and 32 have herein been canceled. Claim 18 has herein been amended. Claims 21, 22, 26 and 28-31 remain unchanged.

The Examiner has made an election requirement as stated in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant elects Species 5 as viewed in Figure 6. Claims 18, 21, 22, 26 and 28-31 are all readable thereon.

In view of the Examiner Interview, Claim 18 has herein been amended as discussed at the interview. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 18, and its dependent Claims 21, 22, 26 and 28-31, are now in condition for immediate allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Any arguments of the Examiner not specifically addressed should not be deemed admitted, conceded, waived, or acquiesced by Applicant. Any additional or outstanding matters the Examiner may have are respectfully requested to be disposed of by telephoning

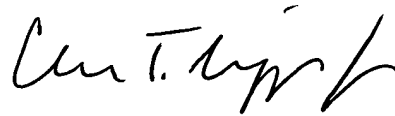
the undersigned.

A Petition for an extension of time to make this response timely is enclosed, along with a PTO-2038 in payment of the extension fee.

A postcard is enclosed evidencing receipt of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

PATULA & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles T. Riggs Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles T. Riggs Jr.

Reg. No. 37,430

Attorney for Applicant

PATULA & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
116 S. Michigan Ave., 14th Fl.  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
(312) 201-8220

83C37